

Access Key Statistics (2004)

Section 1: Access to HE students and programmes

This information relates to students on QAA-recognised Access to HE programmes during 2002-03. It is derived from data provided to QAA by the authorised validating agencies, which operate in England and Wales. *Further details are given overleaf.*



How many Access to HE students were there in 2002-03?

40,218 students were registered on QAA-recognised Access to HE programmes.

- **38,043** were registered in England
- **2,175** were registered in Wales

	Total no	%
New learners: expected end date before 1/8/03	29,859	74%
New learners: expected end date on or after 1/8/03	6,530	16%
Re-registered: expected end date before 1/8/03	3,183	8%
Re-registered: expected end date after 1/8/03	184	1%
Not known	462	1%
Total	40,218	

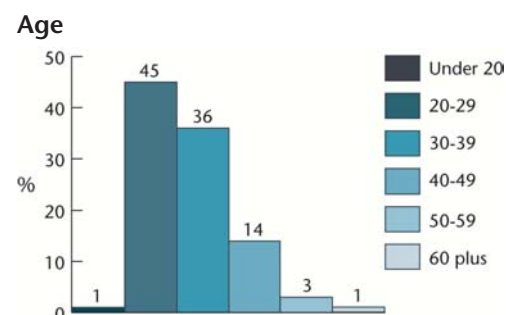
What were the characteristics of Access to HE students?

Gender

- **29,279** were women (73%); **10,939** were men (26%)

Ethnicity

White	26,788	67%
Black or Black British	4,775	12%
Asian or Asian British	1,805	4%
Chinese	347	1%
Mixed and any other	1,407	3%
Not Known not given	5,096	13%



NB: direct comparisons with last year cannot be made as ethnicity and age categories differ from those used previously.

Disability

- **1.8%** (727) stated that they had a **disability**.
- **1.8%** (717) stated that they had a **learning difficulty**.
- **1.0%** (405) stated that they had a **disability and learning difficulty**.
- **45.4%** (18,297) stated that they had **no disability or learning difficulty**.

NB: no information was provided about 50% of students.

What did Access students achieve at the end of their programmes?

Learner completions (24,996 learners)

Of learners completing the programme:

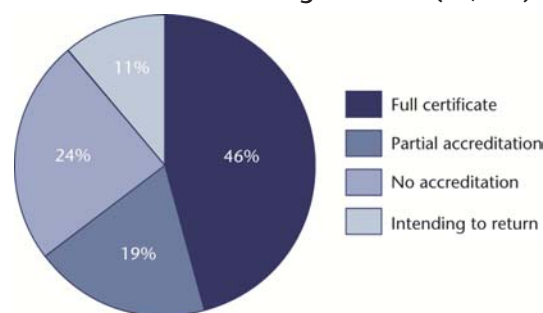
- 73% were awarded the full certificate
- 19% received partial accreditation
- 7% did not receive any award

Learner withdrawals (8,205 learners)

Of learners who withdrew from the programme

- 17% received partial accreditation
- 17% did not receive any award

Achievement of total registrations (40,218)



Where were Access to HE programmes delivered?

- **86%** of programmes running were delivered in FE colleges; **4%** in HE institutions; **3%** in adult or community centres; **2%** in sixth form colleges; and **5%** in other centres.

Section 2: Access students' progression to higher education

This information is derived from data provided by UCAS, and by HESA. The different data sets are not directly comparable. *Further details are given overleaf.*



UCAS data includes applicants and accepted applicants to full-time degree, DipHE or HND/C courses through the UCAS scheme. The data is filtered to applicants from England and Wales for the 2003 entry cycle. UCAS data includes applicants to FEIs and applicants from 'access' courses which are not QAA-recognised.

HESA statistics presented here include students registered on HE programmes at HE institutions in England and Wales in 2002/03 who entered their programme with a QAA-recognised Access certificate. In previous years, HESA data has not distinguished between QAA-recognised Access programmes and other programmes called 'access'.



How many Access to HE students progressed to higher education?

Applicants
(UCAS/NMAS - 2003-04 entry) **18,215** applied to HE through UCAS (5.1% of all applicants)
3,068 applied to HE through NMAS

Acceptances
(UCAS/NMAS - 2003-04 entry) **12,856** were accepted through UCAS (4.4% of all acceptances)
2,246 were accepted through NMAS

Registrations
(HESA - entrants in 2002-03) **11,295** entered undergraduate programmes with a QAA-recognised Access qualification (2% of all entrants)
There were also 3,535 other 'access' entrants

What were the characteristics of former Access to HE students?

Ethnicity

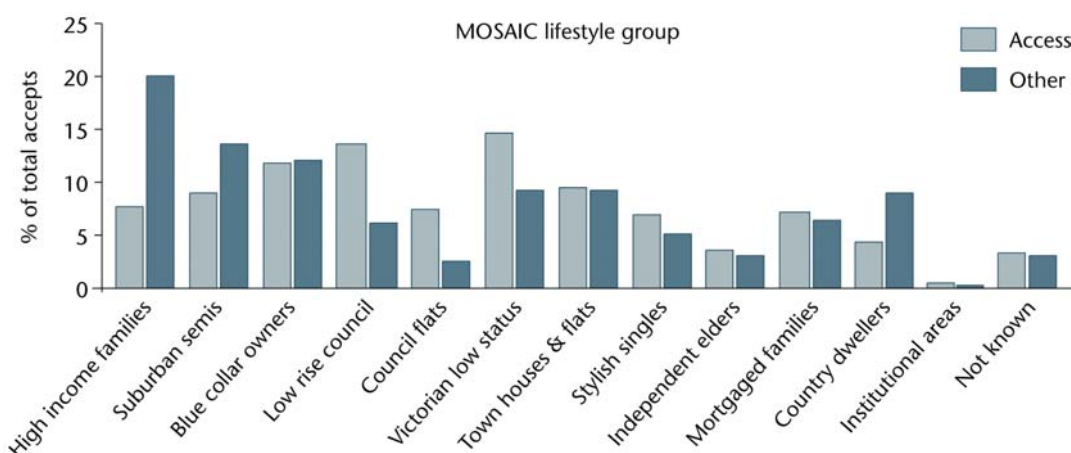
(HESA - entrants in 2002-03)

Of undergraduate entrants with a QAA-recognised Access certificate, 27% were from ethnic minority groups. Of all other entrants, 20% were from ethnic minority groups.

Socio-demographic indicators

(UCAS - 2003 entry)

The chart below provides the breakdown of accepted Access applicants by MOSAIC Lifestyle category. MOSAIC Lifestyle employs a method of classifying postcode areas into distinct social types, using a combination of census, electoral role, housing and financial data to classify households.



Section 3: Former Access students in HE

This information is derived from data provided by HESA and HEFCE. *Further details are given overleaf.*

What were the main areas of study in HE for former Access students?

(HESA-2002-03 entrants)

The subject areas in which students with an Access qualification were registered in greatest numbers were:

	FT	PT	Total
Subjects allied to medicine	3,635	185	3,815
Social studies	1,230	165	1,395
Education	750	130	880
Biological sciences	795	65	860
Computer science	630	70	700

What happened to former Access students in HE?

(HEFCE - 2000-01 entry)



The table below shows the percentage of mature full-time first degree students **not continuing** in HE after their first year in an institution. The number in each category is rounded to the nearest 10. The table is based on table B10 from Annex B in the PI publication *HEFCE 2003/59*, published December 2003. It refers to entrants to higher education institutions in 2000-2001, and whether or not they continued in HE in 2001-02.

Entry qualifications	No of entrants	Non-continuation rates (%)
Access	8,430	14
Foundation course	1,910	12
BTEC	2,650	16
A-levels or Highers with no more than 12 points	6,180	12
A-levels or Highers with between 13 & 22 points	4,240	11
A-levels or Highers with over 22 points	1,760	10
HE	14,950	13
Others/not known	19,990	18
All entry qualifications	60,120	14

Where can I find out more?

More detailed statistics on Access provision and students' progression in HE is provided in the *Joint Agency Report (Access to HE) 2004*, available on the QAA web site: www.qaa.ac.uk

Making sense of the figures

Please bear the following in mind when reading Key Statistics 2004.



The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

QAA: figures relate to recognised Access courses and the students on them during 2002-03. Figures include part-time and full-time students on QAA-recognised courses in England and Wales. While most of these courses are funded by the LSC or ELWa, information relating to some other courses may also be included here. Data presented by QAA has been gathered from the 26 authorised validating agencies in England and Wales.

For further information:

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1UB
Tel: 01452 557000 Fax: 01452 557070 Web: www.qaa.ac.uk



UCAS: figures relate to applicants to HE from access courses only during 2002-03. While these will mostly be students who were on access courses during 2002-03, they will also include some students who chose to delay their applications. They do not include Access students who apply to part-time HE courses or to those who apply directly to HE institutions, but they do include some applicants to HE courses in FE (except where these are made directly to the institution).

For further information:

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
Rosehill, New Barn Lane, Cheltenham, GL52 3LZ
Tel: 01242 222444 Fax: 01242 544960 Web: www.ucas.com



HESA: figures for 2002-03 relate to students entering undergraduate programmes during that year. This is therefore not the same cohort of students as reported by QAA and UCAS for students on Access courses and applying to HE during that year. HESA figures include all students (full and part-time) registered in the first year of undergraduate courses, whatever their application route, but they do not include students who progress to HE courses in FE institutions. For the 2002-03 year, HESA data distinguishes between students entering with QAA-recognised Access certificates and other 'access' certificates. The figures presented here relate only to holders of QAA-recognised Access certificates. All HESA figures are rounded to the nearest five.

For further information:

Higher Education Statistics Agency
95 Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 1HZ
Tel: 01242 255 577 Fax: 01242 211 122 Web: www.hesa.ac.uk



HEFCE: figures are derived from the performance indicators (PI) tables, published in December 2003 as *HEFCE 2003/59*. They relate to full-time mature entrants to first degree programmes in 2000-01. As the data all come from HESA, they do not distinguish between students from QAA-recognised Access courses and those from other courses described as 'access'.

Further information about the PIs can be obtained from the web site: www.hefce.ac.uk/pi

ELWa and LSC: ELWa and the LSC collect statistics about students on Access courses in Wales and England, respectively. Data from ELWa and the LSC has not been included in this year's *Key Statistics* because work to upgrade the LSC's learner aim database has only recently been completed. Both organisations have advised on, and contributed to, the development of this document.

For further information:

Learning & Skills Council
Cheylesmore House, Quinton Road, Coventry, CV1 2WT
Tel: 0845 019 4170 Fax: 024 76 82 3600 Web: www.lsc.gov.uk

Education & Learning Wales
Linden Court, The Orchards, Ilex Close, Llanishen, Cardiff, CF14 5DZ
Tel: 0845 608 8066 Web: www.elwa.ac.uk

...Access headlines...Access headlines...

This year's data shows increases in numbers of Access programmes; of certificates awarded; and in applicants and acceptances by Access students to HE. Data collected by HESA suggests that there has also been an increase in the number of Access students progressing to a course in HE.

Access to HE programmes

QAA-recognised Access to HE programmes available:

2002-03:	1,568
2001-02:	1,281
2000-01:	1,182

Access to HE registrations

Students registered on QAA-recognised Access to HE programmes:

2002-03:	40,218
2001-02:	40,484
2000-01:	38,684

Access to HE certificates awarded

Students awarded Access certificates:

2002-03:	18,393
2001-02:	17,085
2000-01:	16,404

Applications and acceptances to HE

Access students applying through UCAS and NMAS*:

	Applicants	Acceptances
2003:	21,283	15,102
2002:	20,382	14,254
2001:	18,247	13,018

*These have previously been represented separately.

HE entrants from Access programmes

Access students registering on HE courses:

2002:	11,295	<i>*(other 'access' entrants: 3,535)</i>
2001:	13,670	
2000:	13,420	

*Students with a QAA-recognised Access certificate. 2002-03 introduced a distinction between these and other 'access' students.

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) is responsible for the framework for the recognition of Access to HE. This brief overview is based on work undertaken by QAA, the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), the Nursing and Midwifery Admissions Service (NMAS), the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and Education and Learning Wales (ELWa).

Key Statistics 2004